

Prevalence of Intestinal Parasites among Rural Residents of Takestan in North-West of Iran

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Abstract

Background: Intestinal parasites are one of the health challenges in developing countries. Decreasing the prevalence of intestinal parasitic infections (IPIs) is one of the main aims of health services in these countries. This study was designed to determine the current status of IPIs in rural residents of Takestan a town located in North West of Iran.

Methods: A total of 2280 rural residents of Takestan were randomly selected. Data were collected through questionnaire by interviews and laboratory findings obtained by microscopic examination of stool sample including wet smear and formalin ethyl-acetate concentration. A $P < 0.05$ was considered significant, statistically.

Results: In total, 8.7% (199/2280) of participants were positive for at least one intestinal parasite. The prevalence of polyparasitism was 0.7% in study population. *Hymenolepis nana* was the only helminthic infection which was detected (1/2280). *Blastocystis*, *Entamoeba coli*, and *Giardia lamblia* were the most common IPIs with prevalence of 3.6%, 2.9%, and 1.6%, respectively. Statistically, the prevalence of IPIs showed significant differences among villages ($P < 0.01$) and age groups ($P < 0.001$), and also habit of eating raw vegetables ($P < 0.005$), whereas, the difference was insignificant in terms of sex, education level, and occupation.

Conclusion: The prevalence of IPIs in rural residents of the study area is considerably low and this reduction was very impressive about helminthic infections.